

## Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-01 INSE-00 SP-02  
ORM-02 DHA-02 SSO-00 /024 W  
-----005585 300934Z /17  
O 290805Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4141

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FOR EUR/EE AND VO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CVIS, RO, CSCE, EEWT  
SUBJ: CLOSING OF EASTERN HEMISPHERE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY  
REF: BUCHAREST 4478

1. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY TO REFTEL IN  
LIGHT OF FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. WE ARE PRESENTLY IN COURSE OF PREPARING OUR SEMI-  
ANNUAL REPRESENTATION LIST WHICH WE NORMALLY GIVE TO  
MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE IN MID-JULY. BECAUSE OF THE  
UNAVAILABILITY OF NON-PREFERENCE NUMBERS, WE FEEL WE  
MAY BE FORCED TO DROP THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY FROM  
THE REPLIST ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THIS IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY  
A BAD TIME FOR SUCH AN ACTION IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT  
MFN HEARINGS ON FREER EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA AND THE  
UPCOMING BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

3. NONETHELESS, WE HESITATE TO PRESS FOR PASSPORT  
APPROVALS FOR PERSONS TO WHOM WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ISSUE  
VISAS TO UNTIL SOME UNKNOWN DATE IN THE FUTURE.  
THE EMBASSY PRESENTLY KNOWS OF 10 PERSONS IN THE  
NON :PREFERENE CATEGORY WHO HAVE EITHER RECEIVED  
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PASSPORTS OR PASSPORT APPROVAL. IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS  
EXPERIENCE, WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT THAT WHEN THE  
LIST OF 172 APPROVALS REFERRED TO IN BUCHAREST 4739 IS  
RECEIVED THAT IT WILL INCLUDE ANOTHER 15-18 PERSONS  
IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY. (FYI: OF THE 54 PERSONS  
INCLUDED IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY OF THE 12/76  
REPLIST, ONLY 19 HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED. NON-

PREFERENCE APPROVALS SEEM GENERALLY TO COME MORE QUICKLY AND IN GREATER PROPORTION THAN APPROVALS FOR THE QUALIFIED IMMIGRANT AND DUAL NATIONAL CATEGORIES.)

4. THUS IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING WE CAN ALSO REASONABLY

EXPECT THAT, BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER FIRST, LEAVING MFA APPROVAL ASIDE, SOME 30-40 PEOPLE IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY WILL APPEAR AT THE CONSULAR SECTION, PASSPORTS IN HAND. AS OUTLINED IN BUCHAREST 4478, WE WILL ASK NON-HARDSHIP CASES TO EXTEND EXIT VISAS PAST OCTOBER FIRST WHENEVER POSSIBLE BUT BY OCTOBER WE MAY WELL HAVE ACCUMULATED A BACKLOG OF 60-75 NON-PREFERENCE CASES, POSSIBLY CONSIDERABLY MORE IF GOR SHOULD LEARN OF OUR EMBARRASSING SITUATION AND DECIDE TO PROFIT BY IT BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

5. WE WOULD URGENTLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF NON-PREFERENCE VISA NUMBERS BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER FIRST AS EVEN A FEW NUMBERS COULD BEHUSED TO HELP OUT THE MOST NEEDY CASES. WHILE REALIZING THAT THE VISA OFFICE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE THE ESTIMATE AS TO WHETHER IT WILL BE NECESSARY

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TO INSTITUTE A CUT-OFF DATE IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AND, IF SO, APPROXIMATELY WHEN THE CUT-OFF DATE WOULD BE. THIS IS IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THIS POST AS MANY OF OUR NON-PREFERENCE APPLICANTS HAVE REGISTRATION DATES IN LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 AND FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977.

5. CAN DEPARTMENT GIVE US SOME IDEA AS TO PRESENT STATUS OF CONGRESSMAN EILBERG'S BILL REGARDING REFUGEE NUMBERS AND WHAT IMPLICATIONS IT COULD HAVE FOR OUR PRESENT SITUATION IF THE BILL IS PASSED.

6. WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT REPLY TO THESE QUESTIONS SO THAT WE WILL HAVE BETTER IDEA RE POSSIBLE PRESENTATION OF NON-PREFERENCE REPLY TO GOR DURING JULY. REPLY BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON JULY 6 WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL SO HE CAN

DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS WITH STAFF.

7. WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM SAYING ANYTHING YET TO GOR OFFICIALS ABOUT NON-PREFERENCE DILEMMA, BUT WORD WILL

LIKELY GET TO THEM SOON IF IT HASN'T ALREADY THROUGH  
VISA APPLICANTS. IN THIS CONTEXT. TOO, THE EARLIEST  
POSSIBLE REPLY WITH THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF HOPE  
WILL BE USEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR'S JULY 5 SCHEDULED  
TALK WITH MACOVESCU AND PUNGAN.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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